

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9731

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMLSSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: USG COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON EC CHEESE EXPORTS

PASS AGRICULTURE, STR AND TREASURY

1. DURING EMBOFF'S FEBRUARY 25 CALL, MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) REP SIMEONE (DIRECTOR, GATT-EC AFFAIRS) RAISED QUESTION OF US COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON EC CHEESE EXPORTS.

2. SIMEONE SAID GOI RECOGNIZES US' POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH DAIRY SECTOR

AND FACT THAT US COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW (AT LEAST UNTIL RECENTLY) PROVIDES LITTEL IF ANY LEEWAY IN ITS APPLICATION. BUT DAIRY SECTOR IS EQUALLY SENSITIVE POLITICALLY FOR GOI AND ECONOMIC STITUATIONIN ITALIAN

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DAIRY SECTOR IS CURRENTLY UNFAVORABLE TO PRODUCERS.

3. SIMONE CONTINUED BY POINTING OUT THAT ITALIAN HARDCHEESES--PECORINO,

GRANA AND PARMIGIANO--DO NOT REALLY COMPETE WITH US PRODUCED CHEESES; ITALIAN HARD CHEESES ARE UNIQUE AND HAVE NO US COUNTERPART. GOI WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF "SPECIAL CONSIDERATION" FOR THESE ITALIAN CHEESES. DESPITE FACT THAT BOUNTY OR GRANT WITHIN MEANING COUNTERVAILING DUTY ACT IS BEING PAID, GOI HOPES USG COULD TEMPORARILY SUSPEND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON ITALIAN HARD CHEESES AS PERMITTED BY TRADE ACT OF 1974. USG MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER NONAPPLICATION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON EXPORTS TRANSSHIPPED VIA CANADA, PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS.

4. EMBOFF SAID HE WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON OF GOI REQUEST BUT THAT, ALL FACTORS CONSIDERED, IN HIS OPINION IT WAS NOT RPT NOT LIKELY USG WOULD BE ABLE RESPOND FAVORABLY TO REQUEST FOR "SPECIAL CONSIDERATION" FOR ITALIAN HARD CHEESES.

5. COMMENT. SOMEONE OBVIOUSLY DISLIKED HAVING TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT, BUT GOI FEELS COMPELLED MAKE BILATERAL APPROACH SINCE EC COMMISSION HAS NOT, IN GOI VIEW, SUFFICIENTLY PROTECTED ITALIAN INTERESTS. "SPECIAL CONSIDERATION" FOR TRANSSHIPPED CHEESES WOULD IN EFFECT BE CIRCUMVENTION OF EC EFFORTS ELIMINATE TRANSHIPMENTS

TO US VIA CANADA, PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS. VOLPE

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